

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

USSAGE NAKHON PHANOM

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COGARD POLAD

TREASUTY

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

UNCLAS STATE 164966

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: JULY 29 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. REP. ASPIN REPORTS US-PRODUCED FERTILIZER, BADLY NEEDED BY FARMERS HERE, WAS SHIPPED TO SVN AND DIVERTED TO BLACK MARKET. ASPIN RELEASES US EMBASSY-PREPARED TRANSLATION OF SVN NEWSPAPER ARTICLES DETAILING "FERTILIZER HOARDING AND BLACK MARKETING SCANDAL," AND SAYS US SENT SVN ABOUT 431,000 TONS OF FERTILIZER (UPI, NYDN).

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2. SVN INTELLIGENCE OFFICER SAYS NORTH VIET WOMAN OFFICER COMMANDS COMMUNIST BATTALION IN LATEST FIGHTING NEAR DA NANG, IS DESCRIBED BY CAPTURED COMMUNIST SOLDIERS AS FIERCE, AND FEARED AND RESPECTED BY HER TROOPS

(UPI, PHINQ).

3. INFORMED SOURCES SAY AIR AMERICA C-123 ON RETURN FROM RICE SUPPLY MISSION IN CAMBODIA WAS DOWNED OVER DELTA BY HEAT-SEEKING MISSILE. PLANE WAS CHARTERED FROM TAIWAN-BASED CHINA AIRLINES; CREW OF FOUR CHINESE AND ONE FILIPINO ALL LISTED AS MISSING (REUTER, NYT; CHITRIB).

4. FRESH FIGHTING REPORTED NEAR DUC DUC; GVNCOMMAND SAYS 28 ARVN, 14 COMMUNISTS KIA (REUTER, NYT; CHITRIB). NVA AND NLF TROOPS SEIZED SIX VILLAGES AROUND DUC DUC, CARTED OFF OVER 10,000 CIVILIANS TO COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED FOOTHILLS. REPORTS FROM AREA ARE SKETCHY, BUT INDICATE THAT BOTH SIDES HAVE COMMITTED DIVISION-SIZE FORCES OF ABOUT 10,000. HEAVIEST FIGHTING SINCE C-SEEN BY WESTERN DIPLOMATS AS PART OF COMMUNIST STRATEGY TO KEEP GVN FROM TURNING ATTENTION TO "STAGGERING" ECONOMY (CSM).

5. ARBUCKLE (S-N 7/28) AT LUANG PRABANG QUOTES US OFFICIALS THAT NUMBER OF REFUGEES ON US AID IS CLIMBING RAPIDLY THOUGH FIGHTING IN LAOS OVER "FOR THE MOMENT." AID NOW HAS 33,000 PERSONS ON ITS PAYROLL, INCLUDING 8282 ADDED OVER PAST MONTH; TOTAL EQUALS THAT REACHED AT WAR'S HEIGHT. OFFICIALS SAY REASON IS COMMUNISTS' REFUSAL TO ALLOW REFUGEES INTO THEIR ZONE, AND RICELAND OUTSIDE ZONE INSUFFICIENT SO STOCKS EXHAUSTED. OFFICIALS SAY WOULD BE NO PROBLEM IF PL WOULD LET EVERYBODY RETURN HOME. SOUPHANOUVONG TOLD US OFFICIALS THAT ONLY PEOPLE WHO COULD LOOK AFTER THEMSELVES COULD RETURN; NUMBER SO FAR IS ONLY 5606. GENERAL INFLUX OF LANDLESS PEOPLE NOT ACCEPTABLE TO COMMUNISTS. US OFFICIALS BELIEVE PL LACK MEANS TO LOOK AFTER LANDLESS, POOR AND SICK AND DO NOT WANT GROUP OF POLITICALLY UNHAPPY PEOPLE ON THEIR HANDS. PL ALSO WORRY ABOUT INFILTRATION UNCLASSIFIED

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BY RIGHT-WING AGENTS.

6. NYT'S SCHANBERG IN ONCE-IMMACULATE PP WRITES OF PLIGHT OF REFUGEES WHO LIVE ON STREETS IN DROVES. POPULATION OF CITY WAS 600,000, HAS SOARED TO TWO MILLION - ALMOST ONE-THIRD OF COUNTRY'S TOTAL. AT FIRST REFUGEES GOT SHELTER FROM RELATIVES IN KEEPING WITH STRONG KHMER TRADITION; BUT IN PAST YEAR INFLUX HAS EXCEEDED CAPACITY OF FAMILY HELP AND PEOPLE HAVE SPILLED ONTO STREETS. SHACKS AND LEAN-TOS "MARCH LIKE SPREADING IVY DOWN THE SIDEWALKS" AROUND MARKETS AND ALONG WALLS. NO ACCURATE COUNT OF "NEW CLASS" OF STREET PEOPLE

EXISTS. BY DAY THEY DO MENIAL JOBS, BEG OR STEAL.
DISEASE AND ILLNESS CAUSED BY MALNUTRITION INCREASE.
LARGEST AND SADDEST GROUP COMPOSED OF CHILDREN.
SCHANBERG SEES SITUATION AS DESPERATE BUT NOT YET
SO CRUEL AS SAIGON. US-FUNDED REFUGEE PROGRAM IS
ADMINISTERED BY INTERNATIONAL RELIEF AGENCIES
BUT IS SMALL COMPARED TO PROBLEM AND TO US MIL AID

"THAT FUELS THE WAR," AND RARELY REACHES STREET
PEOPLE WHO OUTSIDE ORGANIZED RELIEF STRUCTURE.
CRS HOPES TO OPEN SHELTER FOR STREET CHILDREN.

SCHANBERG RECOUNTS STORIES OF MISERY TOLD BY STREET
CHILDREN, INCLUDING ONE GIRL WHOSE MOTHER DROVE
HER OFF AFTER DEATH OF FATHER; TELLS OF KHMER DOCTOR
WHO TREATS REFUGEES AND ALLOWS THEM TO LIVE IN HIS
HOME. BUT FOR MOST REFUGEE CHILDREN, STREET HAS
BECOME HOME AND THEY REMEMBER NO OTHER.

JAPAN

7. GAIMUSHO RELEASES 1974 POLL WITH FINDINGS, DESCRIBED
AS "FAIRLY SHOCKING," SHOWING SHIFT IN AMERICANS'
VIEWS OF JAPAN. FIGURES SHOW ONLY 36 PERCENT OF
THOSE POLLED FEEL JAPAN CAN BE TRUSTED, WHILE 37 PERCENT
SAY IT CANNOT (CHITRIB).

8. GOJ ANNOUNCES CONSUMER PRICES UP ANOTHER 2.2 PERCENT
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IN JULY, 23.4 PERCENT OVER YEAR AGO. COL INDEX
FOR TOKYO AT END OF MONTH STOOD AT 154.2 COMPARED TO
1970 BASE FIGURE OF 100. TOKYO SHIMBUN PREDICTS
INFLATION RATE FOR FY YEAR ENDING MARCH '75 AT 24-25
PERCENT. ALSO PREDICTS GOVT APPROVAL OF 30 PERCENT RISE
IN RICE PRICE AND LARGE INCREASE IN RAILWAY FARES (UPI,
JOC).

9. JOC'S CULLISON REPORTS BANK OF JAPAN INTERVENTION TO
KEEP DOLLAR FROM EXCEEDING 300 YEN MARK, AS DOLLAR
TOPPED 295 FOR FIRST TIME SINCE FEB. 12. DOLLAR
SEEN STRONG IN JAPAN AS RESULT OF INCREASING DEMAND
FOR USE IN PAYING FOR IMPORTS. ALSO REPORTS BANK OF
JAPAN CONSIDERING CONTROL OF DOLLAR DEPOSITS IN FOREIGN
EXCHANGE BANKS TO RESTRAIN THEIR ACTIVITY IN EURODOLLAR
MARKET.

10. NYT'S OFUSA REPORTS END OF VOLUNTARY TWO-YEAR STEEL
INDUSTRY EXPANSION MORATORIUM AS JAPANESE STEELMAKERS'
PLANS TO BUILD WORLD'S THREE LARGEST BLAST FURNANCES.
NEW PRODUCTION IMPETUS FROM INCREASING EXPORT DEMAND.
US IS JAPAN'S BIGGEST MARKET AND CHINA SECOND BIGGEST,

AND DEMAND RISING SHARPLY IN DEVELOPING NATIONS OF ASIA,
LATIN AMERICA, AND AFRICA.

11. PRICES FOR SOME JAPANESE-PRODUCED INDUSTRIAL RAW
MATERIALS DROP SHARPLY BECAUSE PURCHASES BY SEA
NATIONS SLOWING, ACCORDING TO NIHON KEIZAI. TEXTILES

AND NON-FERROUS METALS PARTICULARLY HARD HIT (UPI, JOC).

12. STRONG EARTHQUAKE HITS SOVIET KURILE ISLANDS, BUT ONLY
SLIGHT IMPACT FELT IN NORTHERN JAPAN (AP, PHINQ).

13. THREE RIVAL ANTI-NUCLEAR ORGANIZATIONS TO STAGE
DEMONSTRATIONS IN HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI TO COMMEMORATE
ATOMIC BOMBINGS (AFP, WP).

KOREA

14. NYT'S BUTTERFIELD GIVES ACCOUNT OF INTERROGATION
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OF CATHOLIC NUN SISTER SYE RAMONDE. INTERROGATORS
QUESTIONED HER FOR 12 STRAIGHT HOURS AND COMPELLED
HER TO SIGN 40 DOCUMENTS, BECAUSE SHE HAS TYPED
DENUNCIATION DELIVERED BY BISHOP CHI. KCIA AGENTS
SEIZED HER A FEW HOURS AFTER HIS SPEECH. WHILE
IN CUSTODY, SHE SAW BISHOP, WHO ADVISED HER TO ADMIT
ROLE. SISTER SYE LAST OUTSIDER TO SEE CHI, WHO IS
BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO REMOTE HOSPITAL
IN SOUTHERN AREA, UNDER KCIA GUARD.

PHILIPPINES

15. US SEIZURE OF PHILIPPINES AIRLINES DC10 FOR ALLEGEDLY
LANDING IN SF WITHOUT AUTHORITY COUNTERED BY GOP
THREAT TO SEIZE NWA JET TO LAND IN MANILA LAST FRIDAY.
BUT, ACCORDING TO UPI, PAL POSTED 200,000 DOLS TO
REGAIN PLANE AND NWA JET ALLOWED IN AND LEAVE MANILA.
US ATTORNEY'S OFFICE IN SF INDICATED COMPLAINT WOULD
BE FILED AGAINST PAL IN FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT FOR UP
TO 156,000 DOLS IN CIVIL PENALTIES (WSJ).

BURMA

16. BURMA HA SIGNED AGREEMENT WITH EXXON FOR EXPLORATION
AT CORPORATIO EXPENSE OFF SE BURMA COAST. PROFITS
TO BE SPLIT 70-30 IN GUB'S FAVOR. EXXON FOURTH FOREIGN
OIL COMPANY TO REACH SUCH AGREEMENT (WSJ).

NEW ZEALAND

17. NZ HAS ARRANGED WITH BASEL'S BANK FOR INTERNALONAL

SETTLEMENTS FOR 100 MILLION DOLS IN SHORT TERM CREDITS
TO MEET DETERIORATING BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SITUATION
(JOC).

HONG KONG

18. HONG KONG LAND LTD ANNOUNCES 120 MILLION DOL, TEN
YEAR REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT,
LARGEST EVER UNDERTAKEN IN BCC (UPI, JOC).

GENERAL
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19. SUN'S CORDDRY, IN ARTICLE ON OXFORD CONFERENCE
ON WORLD BALANCE OF POWER, REPORTS FEELING THERE THAT
INDIA'S NUCLEAR EXPLOSION WILL SPUR NEW ROUND OF ARMS
RACE. SOME SEE AS ATTEMPT TO DETER CHINA. OTHERS SEE
POSSIBILITY THAT AUSTRALIA, INDONESIA, THAILAND, AND
KORE S COULD DEVELOP NUCLEAR CAPABILITY OVER NEXT DECADE,
WITH FORCE SOSMALL THAT "USE IT OR LOSE IT" PHILOSOPHY
MIGHT PREVAIL, ENDING "NUCLEAR STABILITY" CURRENTLY
IN EFFECT BETWEEN SUPERPOWERS.

COMMENT ANALYSIS

KOREA

20. KOREAN EMBASSY'S I. CHUNG WRITES WP EDITOR EXPRESS-
ING DISAPPOINTMENT OVER OBERDORFER'S JULY 20 WP ARTICLE,
PARTICULARLY THOSE PASSAGES ALLEGING THAT INTERROGATORS
OF MIL TRIBUNAL USED TORTURE, BEATING TO OBTAIN
CONFESSIONS. CLAIMS REPORT IS BASED SOLELY ON CHARGES
AND ALLEGATIONS OF DEFENDANTS AND THEIR FAMILIES, AND
GOVT. FLATLY DENIES SUCH ALLEGATIONS AS BEING
ENTIRELY GROUNDLESS. SAYS BEFORE FILING STORY,
OBERDORFER COULD HAVE TAKEN TIME TO VERIFY FACTS
BY INTERVIEWING STUDENTS INVOLVED AND GETTING "OTHER
SIDE" OF HIS STORY. ARGUES THAT MERE FACT OBERDORFER
COULD NOT ELICIT IMMEDIATE RESPONSE FROM KOREAN
OFFICIALS SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS TACIT ADMISSION
OF TRUTH OF HIS STORY. (EDITOR'S NOTE SAYS STUDENTS
INVOLVED IN OBERDORFER STORY IN JAIL AND ROKG WOULD
NOT GRANT OBERDORFER'S REPEATED REQUESTS FOR ACCESS
TO THEM, ADDING: "WE ARE ENTIRELY SATISFIED THAT
MR.OBERDORFER MADE EVERY REASONABLE EFFORT TO AFFORD
THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT AN OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT
ITS SIDE OF THE STORY").CHINA

21.GERALD TANNENBAUM, WHO RETURNED FROM CHINA IN 1972

AND WILL BE VISITING PROF AT U OF MARYLAND THIS
FALL, DISCUSSES MEDICINE IN PRC - ITS AVAILABILITY
TO GENERAL POPULATION, PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

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OF DISEASES AND MEDICAL RESEARCH. COMMENTS THAT ALL ADVANCES MEDICINE IN CHINA HAS MADE CANNOT BE SEPARATED FROM GENERAL TRANSFORMATION WHICH TRANSPIRED THERE IN PAST QUARTER CENTURY. SAYS CHANGES ARE STILL CONTINUING, AND IF RECENT PAST IS ANY INDICATION, WE CAN EXPECT MEDICINE ALONG WITH OTHER ASPECTS OF LIFE IN CHINA WILL BE MOVING FURTHER ALONG AS NATURAL CONSEQUENCE (SUN).

22. CSM'S CRITCHFIELD IN RAWALPINDI REPORTS THAT LIKE PAKISTAN, CHINA AND IRAN ARE WORRIED THAT RUSSIA, INDIA, AND AFGHANISTAN ALL HAVE TERRITORIAL AMBITIONS TO SEIZE WHAT IS LEFT OF PAKISTAN. CITES SEN. JACKSON THAT CHINESE "EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THEIR PERCEPTION OF THE LIMITED EXTENT OF AMERICAN UNDERSTANDING OF PERSISTENT THREATS TO THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF PAKISTAN." SAYS POSSIBILITY INDIA WILL ACQUIRE NUCLEAR ARMS CAPABILITY BY 1977 IS UNLIKELY TO ENCOURAGE CHINESE TO INTENSIFY THEIR COMMITMENT TO PAKISTAN, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, SOMETHING BETWEEN 800,000 AND ONE MILLION CHINESE AND RUSSIAN SOLDIERS FACE EACH OTHER ALONG DISPUTED BORDER'

23. HARVARD'S FAIRBANK WRITES NYT EDITOR TAKING EXCEPTION TO PROF. WILBUR'S JULY 18 NYT LETTER SUPPORTING IDEA OF US EMBASSIES IN TAIPEI AND PEKING. CITES FACT CKS AND MAO HAVE ALWAYS DENOUNCED "TWO CHINAS," ADDING THAT THIS IS NO ACCIDENT BECAUSE UNITY THROUGHOUT CHINA'S LONG HISTORY HAS MEANT NO CIVIL WAR, THEREFORE, PEACE, MAYBE PROSPERITY. NOTES ALSO THAT CHINESE REVOLUTION SINCE 1919 HAS SOUGHT UNITY OF ALL CHINESE AND THEIR SOVEREIGN INDEPENDENCE AS ITS GREATEST POLITICAL IDEALS AND THEREFORE HAS DEMANDED END OF ALL FOREIGN INTERVENTION. CHINA'S REVOLUTIONARY NATIONALISM IS MOST MASSIVE POLITICAL SENTIMENT IN HUMAN RECORD, ACCORDING FAIRBANK, AND WE SHOULD NOT FLY IN FACE OF IT.

FORESEES POSSIBILITY OF TAIWAN AND HK PLAYING ROLE FORMERLY PLAYED BY TREATY PORTS - CHINESE
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PLACES INTEGRATED IN GREAT INTERNATIONAL TRADING WORLD, AND THEREFORE SOMEWHAT DETACHED FROM DIRECT CONTROL OF OLD CHINESE AGRARIAN-BUREAUCRATIC STATE OR ITS REVOLUTIONARY SUCCESSOR, PRC.

MAINTAINS THAT AS OUTSIDERS WE CAN DO NO BETTER THAN ADHERE TO SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE, ACKNOWLEDGING THAT ALL CHINESE AGREE TAIWAN IS PART OF CHINA; "A TWO-EMBASSIES POSTURE WOULD UNDO THE WASHINGTON-PEKING RAPPROCHMENT, WHEREAS AN AMERICAN LIAISON OFFICE IN TAIPEI, ACTING LIKE A CONSULATE GENERAL IN THE JAPANESE FASHION, WOULD BE NO DENIAL OF SOVEREIGN UNITY."

CONCLUDES THAT IF WE WISH CONTINUE TO BENEFIT FROM FRUITFUL CONTACT WITH CHINESE OF ALL CAMPS, WE SHOULD ACCEPT THEIR FAITH IN ONE CHINA IDEAL AND LET THEM TAKE LEAD IN WORKING OUT THEIR OWN RELATIONSHIPS AMONG THEMSELVES.

MALAYSIA

24. WSJ NOTES THAT SOME 85 PERCENT OF MALAYSIA'S EXPORTS ARE AGRIC OR MINERAL PRODUCTS. ALSO NOTING THAT MALAYSIA'S AGRIC EXPORTS ROSE 72 PERCENT IN MONEY TERMS LAST YEAR - LARGELY ON ACCOUNT OF RISING PRICES - SAYS MANY PRICES HAVE RECENTLY BEEN DECLINING; ONE ANALYST ESTIMATES THAT RAW-MATERIAL PRICES GENERALLY HAVE DROPPED SOME 25 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR'S PEAK LEVELS.

CITES MALAYSIAN ECONOMISTS VIEWING PRICE TURNABOUT AS ENABLING BETTER CONTROL OF DOMESTIC INFLATION AND AS REDUCING INCENTIVE OF WOULD-BE BUYERS OF SUCH ITEMS AS NATURAL RUBBER TO SWITCH TO SYNTHETIC SUBSTITUTES. IN CASE OF PALM OIL, MALAYSIAN OFFICIALS HAVE LONG WORRIED THAT OTHER DEVELOPING LANDS WILL TURN TO PRODUCING THIS EASILY-GROWN ITEM.

HOWEVER ECONOMISTS ADMIT TO SOME CONCERN OVER CHANGED PRICE PICTURE. ONE INVOLVES HUNDREDS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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THOUSANDS OF SMALL PLANTERS WHO GROW RUBBER. IF PRICE OF THEIR PRODUCT WERE TO DROP TOO SHARPLY, SOME OFFICIALS FEAR, THESE SMALL PLANTERS MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO ABANDON MANY OF THEIR TREES - MOVE THAT COULD JEOPARDIZE LONG-TERM HEALTH OF THIS KEY MALAYSIAN INDUSTRY.

PHILIPPINES

25. WSJ'S HARTLEY REPORTS MANILA OFFICIALS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING ALLOWING BANKING IN ASIA DOLLARS IN PHILS. CITES SOME SOURCES AS BELIEVING DECISION WILL COME BY EARLY FALL AND BETTING GOP, WHICH

HAS BEEN TRYING TO MAKE MANILA INTO "FINANCIAL
CENTER," WILL APPROVE. NOTES LOCAL BANKS ARE
GENERALLY HOSTILE TO ASIA DOLLAR PLAN; LOCAL
BANKERS FEAR BIG, FOREIGN ASIAN DOLLAR BANKS
MIGHT EVENTUALLY GOBBLE UP MUCH POTENTIAL BUSINESS
IN LOANS MADE TO SUPPORT INVESTMENTS IN PHILS.
KISSINGER

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